

## ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

CHECK-LIST OF BIRDS OF THE WORLD. VOLUME II. By James Lee Peters. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1934. Pp. i-xvii+1-401. Price, \$4.00.

The second volume of this notable work appeared in the middle of June, there being an interval of about two and a half years between the first and second volumes. The author reports that his work on the second volume was completed early in 1933. The plan of this work follows that of Volume I (which was announced in the *WILSON BULLETIN* for December, 1931, XLIII, p. 320). Volume II treats of the Galliformes, Gruiformes, Diatrymiformes, and Charadriiformes (grouse, quail, cranes, rails, sandpipers, plovers, gulls, terns, and auks), thus including a considerable number of the "game birds". In the list is given the scientific name, source of original description, and world distribution. Vernacular specific names are omitted, for the reason that they have only national use. Vernacular family names are added in the Table of Contents, but the author remarks in the Preface that, "inventing English names for birds that do not have them is a waste of time." As this series of volumes nears completion the magnitude of it will become more apparent, and it is to be hoped that early volumes are being issued in sufficient numbers to accommodate late buyers.—T. C. S.

LES OIEAUX DE FRANCE. VOLUME II. By A. Menegaux. Published by Paul Lechevalier & Sons, 12 Rue de Tournon, Paris, VI. Pp. 450. Figs. 148. Pls. 80 (64 in color). 1934.

"The Birds of France" here appears in the second volume. This volume treats of the grebes, auks, petrels, terns, gulls, plovers, sandpipers, ducks, geese, cormorants, pelicans, storks, herons, cranes, and rails—the water birds. The volume is arranged in two parts. Part I is the systematic text, and covers about 300 pages. It includes 130 line drawings to illustrate various morphological features, e. g., head, tail, wing, foot, bill, etc. Besides this systematic treatment of the water birds of France, there is a very full treatment of the parasites found on the birds of the list. Eighteen genera, including 194 species, of parasites are described, all but three of the species belonging to the Mallophaga. A list showing the distribution of the parasites on the bird species is also given. There are line drawings (eighteen in number) to illustrate practically all of the genera of parasites.

Part II is called the Atlas, which contains the pictures. There are eighty full page plates, sixty-four of which are in color. Each plate is accompanied with a page of descriptive text matter, including plumage, measurements, food habits, and distribution. Each plate illustrates one species, but both sexes are shown in cases where they differ. A useful paragraph in the text for each species gives the vernacular names in the French, German, English, Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese languages.

This volume on the water birds of France follows the same general plan as in the earlier volume on the hawks, grouse, pigeons, woodpeckers, etc. (reviewed in the *WILSON BULLETIN*, June, 1933, XLV, p. 91). In many respects the second volume impresses us as being an improvement on the first volume of the series. We do not find a statement as to the price of Volume II, but Volume I was priced at 50 francs. Volume III is projected to treat the song birds of France. These volumes are of uniform pocket size ( $4\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{1}{4}$  inches), and should be most helpful to bird students travelling in Europe.—T. C. S.